

Editorial Sample A

Add Another Traffic Lane for Emergency Vehicles

By Julie

It takes too long for emergency vehicles to reach the emergency. What if you were caught in a fire and couldn't get out because the truck couldn't get there in time.

The largest cause of this delay in time is traffic. Unaware or uncaring drivers are to blame for that. Not many people pull over when they hear a siren or see an emergency vehicle. Large emergency vehicles going at high speeds can't come to a sudden stop and squeeze through spaces between the cars, on the shoulder, and on the median. That problem is an issue especially during rush hour and when the light is red. There should be another lane built for emergency vehicles only.

Once I was traveling on H27 with my grandma we just stopped at the light at the intersection of Oak Hill Road. Just after the cars stopped across from us a fire truck came flying in from behind them and had to stop. The cars were moving, but in every direction and it just made a bigger mess. The fire truck couldn't get through. The light we were at and the two lights at the intersection all turned green before the light the fire truck was at. It caused at least a five minute delay for that truck. If there had been another lane, this never would have happened.

There is a way to stop this mayhem. The city could add on one lane to roads high in traffic. Those roads are the highways, possibly the parkway, and roads downtown. This is already happening in some states on their freeways. They are called HOV lanes, or **high occupancy vehicle** lanes, also known as carpool or diamond lanes. HOV lanes are reserved for people who share the ride in buses, vanpools, or carpools. Motorcycles and emergency vehicles are also allowed.

People are not going to start being respectful and get out of the way for emergency vehicles, so something has to be done. Adding HOV lanes would save lives.

What if your house burnt or a family member died because of this little problem. Or what if it were you that was injured? Don't think it can't happen to you cause it very well could. How would you feel? Does that change your mind?